

of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903) as amended by section 103 of Public Law 103-296, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Social Security Advisory Board to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mrs. Dorcas R. Hardy, Spotsylvania, Virginia.

There was no objection.

TAX FACTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, 6 days from now millions of Americans will be scrambling to get their Federal income taxes done. Every year at this time we are reminded how much of a burden the American tax payer bears. Here are some facts: 10 years ago the IRS said it took the average person 9½ hours to complete a 1040 form. Today it takes 13 hours. That is enough time to play four baseball games. This year it will cost Americans about \$194 billion just to comply with the tax code, enough to buy 4.7 million brand-new Cadillacs. The IRS employs over 104,000 people. That is four times as many people that work for the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, if there is a lesson to learn from all of this it is this: that taxes will keep going up and up if we do not constantly fight to keep them down.

In 1913, the first year of the Federal income tax, the top rate was 7 percent and that was the rate for millionaires. Today the top rate is almost 40 percent.

The American people need more tax relief, tax reform and IRS reform; and I urge my colleagues to make this a priority this year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAMS

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we return from recess, all of us saw a great deal of basketball; and I want to congratulate three outstanding high schools in my district for having won championships: Westinghouse, State of Illinois Boys' Championship; Providence St. Mel, Elite 8 Illinois high school regional champions. And I might add that 95 percent of all the students at this school go to college. I would also like to give accolades to Marshall High School for winning the city of Chicago's girls' championship under the leadership of Mr. Pitman and Dorothy Gaiter, who is the winningest female basketball coach in the United States of America. I congratulate all of them.

FN MANUFACTURING, A NATIONAL ASSET

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Operation Anaconda has been successfully concluded, and while we are thankful for the courage and valor of our military in the field, we also owe thanks to those Americans who provide the weapons our troops need, which made this victory and future victories possible.

Last week I toured a national asset in the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, FN Manufacturing of Columbia. This company makes over 75 percent of the machine guns, rifles and other small arms of the U.S. Armed Forces. These are the finest infantry weapons ever made: rugged, dependable and effective.

Five hundred professional South Carolinians, skilled machinists, fabricators, designers, and engineers are dedicated to maintaining their world-famous high qualities. I met in person the hard-working FN employees who are making a difference for peace through strength.

America is fortunate to have a proven supplier whose products are clearly needed and highly praised by those in harm's way as we proceed to victory in the war on terrorism.

PENSION REFORM

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I can report that the pension reform bill that passed on a partisan vote from our committee does not help employees. Instead, big business is allowed to keep a two-tiered pension system, a system that protects executives but leaves the employees to fend for themselves; and that is wrong.

I offered an amendment in committee, Mr. Speaker. That amendment ensures that hard-working Americans have the same pension protections as their company's executives. Democrats are fighting for employees who work hard, who play by the rules, who plan their retirement, not punish them. Not punish them by allowing executives to raise the pension funds and then get off scott-free.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join us as we fight to enact real pension reform parity between executives and their employees.

GOVERNOR GUINN'S VETO

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Nevada made history. History, Mr. Speaker, because Nevada's Governor, Kenny Guinn, vetoed a Presidential decision, a decision to ship nuclear waste to the State of Nevada. Almost 2 decades ago when Nevada was given the right to cast this veto, we were under the impression that a recommendation on Yucca Mountain would be based on sound science, assuring the safety and security of Nevadans and every American.

Instead, the process has been riddled with bias, and the DOE recommendation was based on political expediency. For example, the DOE refuses to address the inherent problems that come with transporting the deadliest substance known to man through 43 States and for 3 decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Governor Guinn's decision to stand up to the convoluted mess of special interests and corruption that the Department of Energy refers to as the Yucca Mountain project.

I urge my colleagues to join Nevada's Governor and delegation in opposing a project that is immeasurably dangerous to every American.

□ 1415

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST TERRORISM

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, for like millions of Americans, I pray for the peace of Jerusalem almost every day, for the peace and security of the Jews and the Christians and the Muslims who call this ancient city their home. And, of course, we now know that after 18 months of suicide bombings and relentless terrorist attacks, Israel has begun to defend itself, rolling armaments and military personnel into the West Bank, and not without results, uncovering 15 explosive labs, arresting 600 fugitives from crime, and of course, there have been no recent suicide bombings since the incursion. Nevertheless, the President of the United States yesterday encouraged Israel to withdraw from the West Bank without delay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of hundreds of thousands of believing Christians and Jews across Indiana, and even many Muslims who pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and say let us stand with Israel without delay.

Let the word go forth from this Chamber, to this administration and to the world, that the citizens of this country and the overwhelming majority of this Congress says America stands with Israel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to clause